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Taxes Climb to New Highs in City, County

Another tax boost is in store for Torrance residents this year. The newest spiral in what seems to be an almost inevitable yearly increase was fixed this week by the County Board of Supervisors.

It shows that in 1959-60 Torrance taxpayers will be paying a combined county-city total of about \$8.17, or 56 cents more than they paid this year.

This year's rate was about \$7.62 per \$100 assessed value.

Highest item on the bill is the Torrance Unified School District tax of \$3.49 per \$100 assessed valuation, a 29-cent increase over this year's figure.

"A Shocking Blow"

County supervisors this week approved the highest general tax rate in county history, a rate of \$2.08, which Supervisor Kenneth Hahn described as a "shocking blow" to county taxpayers.

The new county tax is an increase of 11 cents over this year's rate of \$1.97.

According to Hahn, "Taxpayers will not receive the full impact of the rate increase until they get their tax bills in November."

For Torrance residents, those bills will include a city tax of \$1.2888, a flood control tax of \$3.67, a water district tax of \$1.17 and an estimated sanitation district tax of \$2.0, for each \$100 in assessed valuation.

All of these rates are higher than this year, except for a one-cent drop in the water district tax.

Highest

The El Camino College tax rate of \$5.713 brings the taxpayer's burden to a total of \$8.17. It is the first time in history that the combined county-city taxes have climbed over the \$8 mark.

Torrance's school tax includes a 17-cent increase in the general operating budget due to rising costs and higher enrollment.

It also includes about nine cents' increase for interest on bonds and a three-cent boost in the district contribution to employee retirement funds.

Schools O.K. \$2 Million Bond Sale

An additional \$2,000,000 in building bonds will be sold by the Torrance Unified School District in October, the Board of Education decided this week. Actual sale of the bonds will be by the County Board of Supervisors.

The bonds must be sold, Assistant Superintendent S. E. Waldrip said, if the district is to continue to receive state aid in its construction program. Part of the money also will be used to complete South High and continue high school expansion.

The sale will bring the amount of bonds sold during the past year to \$5,350,000. During the period, the district opened seven new schools and additions to five others. Work currently is under way on two new schools and additions at 11 others.

To speed the building program, voters last October authorized an additional \$15,000,000 in bonds for school construction. Bond funds can be used only for buildings and equipment.

Holiday Care Urged

Torrance residents were cautioned today to be especially careful during the last two days of the Labor Day holiday weekend.

Noting that "too many South and residents have already been victims of needless accidents," County Sheriff Peter J. Fitchess called for "common sense and safety precautions" to cut down on driving, swimming and household mishaps today and tomorrow.

City Seeks Applicants

A new job is open in Torrance city government for qualified residents.

The position, titled "assistant to director of public works," is primarily that of a staff coordinator.

Applicants must have four years experience or education in public works administration and must apply before 5 p.m. Sept. 16. A civil service examination will be given at 9 a.m. Sept. 26 in the city hall.



HEIGH-HI, HEIGH-HO—It's off to school we go, for the first time. A big event in the life of hundreds of Torrance children Thursday will be their first day in school. Typical kindergarten student is Kenneth Madden, 5, whose mother, Mrs. Ralph Madden, 2018 W. 180th St., bundles him up with coat and lunch box for his morning's walk to Arlington Elementary School. Kenneth "can hardly wait" to meet his new teacher, Mrs. Madden said. "He has a pretty good idea what it's all about. He and other neighborhood children have been playing school all summer on the patio."

Vacation Ends for 25,000, City Schools Start Thursday

Vacation is over. And it's back to reading, writing, and arithmetic for some 20,000 elementary and 5,000 high school students.

Torrance schools start Thursday. The mass pilgrimage of young people back to the 31 brick buildings is a big event annually for both students and parents. It means the end of summer jobs or play and beginning the yearly routine of learning.

Some 215 new teachers reported Thursday for orientation sessions from their principals. All 950 Torrance instructors will be back in their classrooms next Tuesday to get ready for the rush of students.

Freshmen Start Wednesday

High school freshmen will enter their schools next Wednesday, Sept. 9, for pre-school activities, with North and Torrance High students arriving at 8:30 and South High pupils at 9 a.m.

All students will be at their desks on Thursday morning, with times varying from school to school. North High will start at 7:40, South High at 8, and Torrance High at 8:05. Elementary starting times can be obtained from the schools.

North High students will report as follows: seniors to rooms 101-115; juniors to rooms 306-317;

sophomores to 207-219; freshmen to teacher-counselors; and new students to the cafeteria.

Torrance High seniors will report to the senior patio; juniors, upper tennis court; sophomores, science patio; freshmen, teacher-counselors; and new students, auditorium.

South High students will be directed by signs at the school.

All Cafeterias Open

Cafeterias at all schools except Torrance Elementary and Fern Greenwood will be in operation for the first day of school, with a menu including hot dogs and brownies. Lincoln and Columbia cafeterias will be in operation for the first time.

Elementary lunches will be 30 cents and milk, also available for sack lunches, costing four cents. Ice cream bars are six cents. Menus will be sent home with children.

Strikes during the summer delayed construction of additions to North and South Highs, and Wal-

teria, Edison, Steele and Madrona Schools, as well as the Torrance Elementary cafeteria. The result will be temporary use of all available classroom space at North and South High and double sessions at the elementary schools. Most of the facilities should be ready within about 60 days, according to officials.

3300 on Double Sessions

Double sessions will be about 3300 students, about 1000 students down from 1958 opening day. Half-day sessions will dip sharply with the completion of the delayed additions at Walteria, Edison, Steele and Madrona, and of recently started additions at Anza, Arlington, Newton, Lincoln and Sepulveda Schools.

The latter five should be ready early next year. Recently-started Adams School also is expected to open during the year.

Fern-Greenwood students will be on double session, because of rehabilitation work on the Fern Ave. plant. The cafeteria will not be in operation, because it is located in the Fern facility. Fern is expected to be ready early next year.

SAFETY CAMPAIGN BEGINS

This week has been designated as "Back-to-School Safety Week" throughout Los Angeles County. The safety campaign is sponsored by school and civic officials.

Police Halt City Store Looting

Solve Series of Bicycle Burglaries

A two-week string of burglaries in the Torrance area which had police mystified came to a sudden end yesterday when juvenile officers arrested two young local boys who allegedly confessed to the crimes.

Police said the boys, ages 10 and 12, admitted five burglaries in the area, and may be responsible for others.

Stolen was an estimated \$78 and some merchandise.

Hahn's market, 645 Sartori, twice was broken into and robbed, the second time only one day after police had investigated the first burglary.

Other local stores hit were the Torrance TV Studio, the Quality Market, and A-1 Photo. According to Lt. Gus Rethwisch, the boys entered Hahn's by tearing the screen and breaking a window with a rock.

Sneaked Out of House

All burglaries were carried out at night. The boys sneaked out of the house after their parents were asleep, police said.

Clue to solution of the mysterious burglaries which, according to Rethwisch, "had us all a little worried," was a red bicycle.

After the second Hahn case, a woman witness noticed boys on bicycles and police were alerted. A red bicycle was noticed by an officer investigating the attempt to break into A-1 Photo, and officers Jim Popp and Douglas Nice linked the clues together.

Officers Link Clues

Solution of the case was provided by officers H. B. Ingram and Jim Daniel, who tracked the clues to the boys' home and found some stolen merchandise.

The boys probably will not be prosecuted but instead placed on probation with their family.

Responsibility for prosecution rests with Lt. Rethwisch, who believes that "the people who lost money and goods must be compensated," but doubts that a police will file to hold the boys in custody because of their age.

No Local Teachers Under Investigation

None of Torrance's 950 public school teachers are currently involved in the investigations of the House Un-American Activities Committee, according to Dr. J. H. Hull, district superintendent of schools.

The committee subpoenaed 93 California teachers, including many from Los Angeles county communities, but has turned over its files to Dr. Roy E. Simpson, state superintendent, for relay to local school boards. Local boards will complete the investigations.

The files are now in the hands of Atty. Gen. Mosk.

"As far as we know, no Torrance teacher has been subpoenaed and no files will be turned over to us," Dr. Hull said.

Phony Solicit of Band Funds Stirs Area

In a dramatic and well-coordinated stake-out yesterday police and Coleman Engineering Company officials combined to arrest a Torrance man attempting illegally to solicit funds.

Melford Gage, 34, 20837 Hall-dale, is now in custody on suspicion of theft.

Police say Gage visited at least 100 places of business in Torrance area posing as a fund raiser for the Torrance Youth Band.

"He's with a band all right," says Lt. Brown, "but it's not the Youth Band, and he shouldn't be asking for funds under that name."

Brown said Gage works for the Mel-O-Dee Band, of 21166 S. Western Ave.

Reports that illegal soliciting of merchants was going on first reached the ears of band director James Van Dyck last week.

When "at least 15 businesses" called Van Dyck and his wife, Mrs. Van Dyck notified police.

"The band doesn't get its money by collection," Mrs. Van Dyck points out. "There's no telling how many people have given the man money without calling us about it."

According to police, at least \$300 was collected under false pretenses.

Lt. A. S. Thompson, president of the Youth Band, alerted merchants in the area to be on the lookout for a solicitor when both Coleman Engineering and Dr. William E. Grubbs' office reported his visits on Thursday.

Yesterday, Coleman Engineering called Thompson with the information that "the man will be back shortly after noon today."

Thompson hurried over to join Coleman's corporation attorney in a wait for the caller to come in to pick up his check.

When Gage showed up, Thompson took him into custody. Arraignment in South Bay Municipal Court will probably be Thursday, according to police.

Both Mrs. Van Dyck and Lt. Thompson are relieved that the illegal soliciting has come to an end. "It might have given the boys' band a bad name," the lieutenant says.



WELCOME TO TORRANCE—Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, offers kind words of welcome to new school teacher Judith Sassman, who finds Torrance "a very friendly community." She will teach fourth and fifth grades at Meadowpark school. All new teachers and their families were feted at a steak fry in Torrance Park Thursday by the Chamber of Commerce and the downtown merchants. Civic and school officials greeted guests and introduced them to the city. The new teachers are now being oriented in their chosen schools.

Three Dead, Two Homeless in Lawndale Shooting Fray

A tragic shooting spree in Lawndale early Friday left three people dead and two young children orphaned and alone.

Father of one of the children, Bruce Kelly, 24, shot his wife Rose, 20, a neighbor woman, Mrs. Coy Lee Bates, 40, and then committed suicide.

Mrs. Kelly was living with Mrs. Bates and 5-year-old Willie George Bates, an adopted son, at 4173½ W. 162nd St., Lawndale, at the time of the shooting.

The Kellys were pronounced dead on arrival at Jones Medical Center, Gardena. Mrs. Bates died later at Harbor General hospital, Torrance.

Mrs. Bates, a widow, had nearly completed adoption proceedings for the boy, but her death left him homeless for the third time in his life.

A friend of both women, Clarence Legre, 40, was in the apartment at the time of the shooting and suffered a flesh wound.

Marital Quarrel Legre told police that the shooting resulted from a marital fight between the Kellys.

Kelly separated from his wife about 10 days ago. He had been living in the San Diego area and took his three-year-old daughter Sharon with him last Sunday.

Shortly after midnight Friday, he returned to the Lawndale apartment in order to attempt a reconciliation with his wife, but when she refused, he took out a .38 caliber pistol and shot both Mrs. Kelly and Mrs. Bates, and then put the last bullet in his own head, Legre said.

Legre told police Kelly gave no warning that he was about to fire.

OFFICES CLOSE TOMORROW

Torrance city hall and civic offices will be closed Monday in observation of the Labor Day holiday. City offices will be open on Wednesday, however.

All federal offices in the area will also be closed only on Monday.

State and county buildings in Torrance and South Bay cities will be closed both Monday and Wednesday, in honor of Admission Day.



BEFORE CONSTRUCTION—It's just a hole in the ground, but afterward, it's a modern architectural marvel. The spirit is there as these official ground breakers demonstrate. Tilling the earth for the new Magnavox plant in Torrance are, from left, Richard A. O'Connor, chairman of the board of directors, Magnavox; Myra Barrett, Miss Industry of Santa Monica; Mayor Albert Isen; Betty Baker, Miss Torrance; Dr. Ragnar Thorensen, manager of the West Coast operation. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held Wednesday.